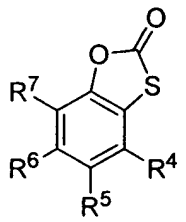
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions of claims in the application.

1-27 (cancelled)

1. (new) A compound represented by Formula I



I

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein:

R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of:

H, halogen, cyano, azide, formyl, substituted and unsubstituted C(1-8) alkyl, C(1-8) fluoroalkyl, substituted and unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted and unsubstituted aryl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted and unsubstituted biphenyl;

XR^8, wherein X is S or O, and R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted and unsubstituted C(1-8) alkyl, C(1-8) fluoroalkyl, substituted and unsubstituted acyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylcarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylcarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted alkylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted aralkyl substituted and unsubstituted aryl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted and unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylsulfonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylsulfonyl; and

NR^9R^{10}, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted and unsubstituted C(1-8) alkyl, C(1-8) fluoroalkyl,substituted and unsubstituted acyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylcarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylcarbonyl, substituted and

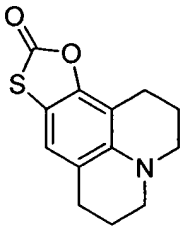
unsubstituted alkylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylaminocarbonyl, substituted and unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted and unsubstituted aryl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted and unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl, substituted and unsubstituted arylsulfonyl, substituted and unsubstituted heteroarylsulfonyl, or wherein R^9 and R^{10} are combined along with the N to which they are attached to form a heteroalkyl, substituted heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, and substituted heteroaryl ring system; and wherein

R^4 and R^5 may be combined to form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl ring system; and

R^6 and R^7 may be combined to form a cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl ring system,

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded: 5-(N-cyclohexylcarbamoyloxy)-7-methylbenzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (31), 5-(3-chlorobenzothiophen-2-ylcarbonyloxy)-7-phenylbenzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (33), 6-(4-nitrophenylcarbonyloxy)-7-phenylbenzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (34), 5-hydroxy-7-(4-fluorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (35), 5-hydroxy-7-(2-chlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (36), 5-hydroxy-7-(3-chlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxat hiol-2-one (37), 5-(2-chlorophenylcarbonyloxy)-7-(3-chlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (38), 5-hydroxy-7-(4-chlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (39), 5-(2-chlorophenylcarbonyloxy)-7-(4-chlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (40), 5-hydroxy-7-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (41), 5-hydroxy-7-(2,5-dichlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (42), 5-hydroxy-7-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (43), 5-hydroxy-7-(4-bromophenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (44), 5-hydroxy-7-(3-methylphenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (46), 5-hydroxy-7-(4-methylphenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (47), 5-(2-chlorophenylcarbonyloxy)-7-(3-methylphenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (48), 5-hydroxy-7-(2-

trifluoromethylphenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (51), 5-hydroxy-7-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (53), 7-ethylamino-5-methylbenzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (56),



(57) , 5-hydroxy-7-((2-naphthy)sulfanyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (23), 5-(N-Butylcarbamoyloxy)-7-((2-naphthyl)sulfanyl)benzo[1,3]oxathiol-2-one (25), and 4-hydroxy-3-((2-naphthyl)sulfanyl)naphtha[2,1-d]1,3-oxathiol-2-one (60),

naphtho[1,2-d]-1,3-oxathiol-2-one; 4,6-dimethyl-5-hydroxy-1,3-oxathiol-2-one, 6-hydroxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one; 4,6-hydroxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one,

7-hydroxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one; 4-methyl-6-hydroxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one, 5-chloro-6-hydroxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one; 5-bromo-6-hydoxy-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one, 6-hydroxy-7-methyl-1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one; 3-hydroxy-naphthyl-[1,2]1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one, 7-hydroxy-naphthyl-[1,2]1,3-benzoxathiol-2-one;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^5 is OH, R^6 is H, then R^7 is not unsubstituted phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is H, then R^5 is not methyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is H, then R^5 is not OH;

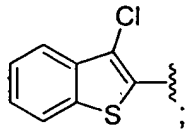
and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^5 is OH, R^6 is H and R^7 is substituted phenyl then the substituent is not 3-methyl, 4-methyl, 4-methoxy, 2-chloro, 3-chloro, 4-chloro, or 4-nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^5 is OH, R^7 is H and R^6 is substituted phenyl, then the substituent is not 3-methyl, 4-methyl, 4-methoxy, 2-chloro, 3-chloro, 4-chloro, or 4-nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^7 is H, R^6 is H, R^5 is OH and R^4 is substituted phenyl, then the substituent is not 3-methyl, 4-methyl, 4-methoxy, 2-chloro, 3-chloro, 4-chloro, or 4-nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is unsubstituted phenyl, then R^5 is not OC(O)-phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is unsubstituted phenyl, R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 4-nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is unsubstituted phenyl, then R^5 is not 

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and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 3-methylphenyl, and R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 2-chloro or 4-chloro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 4-methylphenyl, then R^5 is not OC(O)-phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 4-methylphenyl, and R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 2-chloro or 4-chloro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 4-methoxyphenyl, then R^5 is not OC(O)-phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 4-methoxyphenyl, and R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 2-chloro or 4-chloro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 2-chlorophenyl, then R^5 is not OC(O)-phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 2-chlorophenyl, and R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 2-chloro, 4-chloro or 4-bromo;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^5 is not OC(O)-phenyl;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is 2-chlorophenyl, and R^5 is substituted OC(O)-phenyl, then the phenyl substituent is not 2-chloro, 4-chloro or 4-bromo;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is H, then R^5 is not $OC(O)NHCH_2C(O)OCH_2CH_3$;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is H, then R^5 is not OH;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 is H, R^6 is H, R^7 is H, then R^5 is not OC(O)NH-lower alkyl, OC(O)NH-substituted aryl, OC(O)NH-haloalkyl, OC(O)NH-carbalkoxyalkylene, or OC(O)NH-alkyl carbonyloxyalkylene;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is OH, and R^6 is H, then R^7 is not OH;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is OH, and R^7 is H, then R^6 is not OH;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is OH, and R^6 is H, then R^7 is not nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is OH, and R^7 is H, then R^6 is not nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is H, and R^6 is H, then R^7 is not OH;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is H, and R^7 is H, then R^6 is not OH;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is H, and R^6 is H, then R^7 is not nitro;

and with the further proviso that when R^4 or R^5 is H, and R^7 is H, then R^6 is not nitro.

2. (new) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^7 is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted arylthio, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylthio, and R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, substituted alkylcarbonyloxy or substituted alkylaminocarbonyloxy moiety containing an amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, pyridyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholino, thiomorpholino, or pyrrolidinyl moiety, substituted or unsubstituted prolinyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylcarbonyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylaminocarbonyloxy.

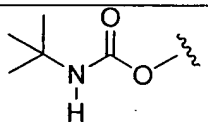
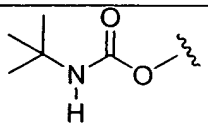
3. (new) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^7 is substituted or unsubstituted haloaryl, and R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl,

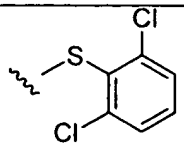
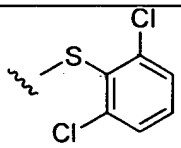
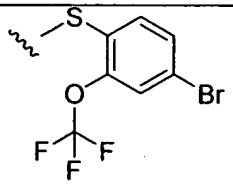
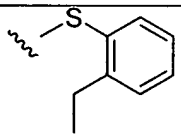
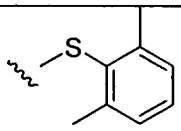
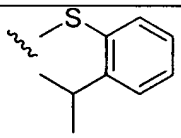
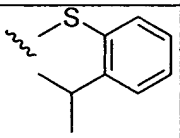
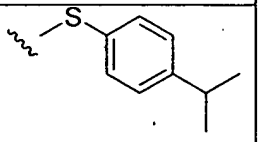
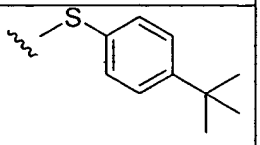
substituted alkylcarbonyloxy or substituted alkylaminocarbonyloxy moiety containing an amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, pyridyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholino, thiomorpholino, or pyrrolidinyl moiety, substituted or unsubstituted prolinyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylcarbonyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylaminocarbonyloxy.

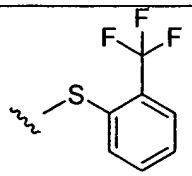
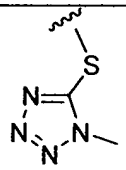
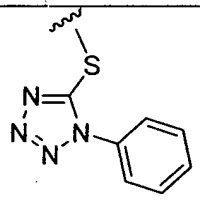
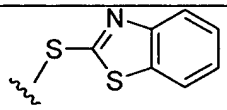
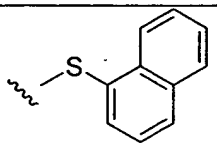
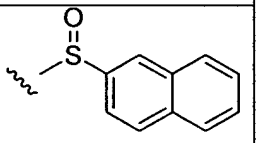
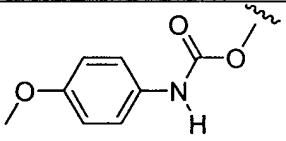
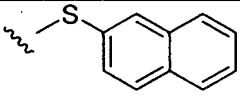
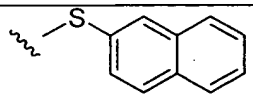
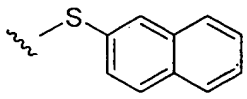
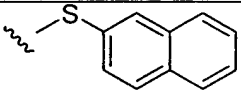
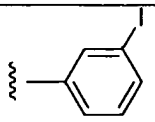
4. (new) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is a substituted alkylcarbonyloxy or substituted alkylaminocarbonyloxy moiety containing an amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, pyridyl, or piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholino, or pyrrolidinyl moiety, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylcarbonyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted heteroarylaminocarbonyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted prolinyloxy, and R^7 is a substituted or unsubstituted biphenyl moiety.

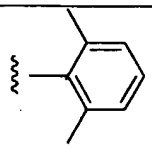
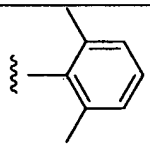
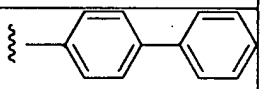
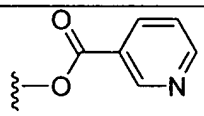
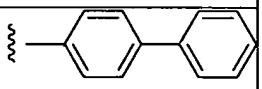
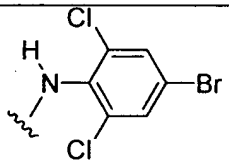
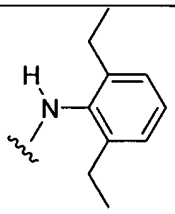
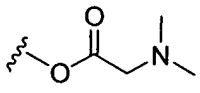
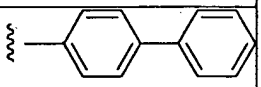
5. (new) The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^4 and R^6 are hydrogen.

6. (new) A compound, according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

Cpd	R^4	R^5	R^6	R^7	
1	H	OH	H	H	;
2	H		H	H	;
3	Cl	OH	H	Cl	;
4	Cl		H	Cl	;
5	H	OH	H	$-SCH_2CH_3$	;
6	H	OH	H	$-S(O)CH_2Ph$	;
7	H	OH	H	$-SCH_2CH_2Ph$	;
8	H	OH	H	-SPh	;

Cpd	R^4	R^5	R^6	R^7
9	H	OH	H	
10	H	OH		H
11	H	OH	H	
12	H	OH	H	
13	H	OH	H	
14	H	OH	H	
15	H	OH		H
16	H	OH	H	
17	H	OH	H	

Cpd	R^4	R^5	R^6	R^7
18	H	OH	H	
19	H	OH	H	
20		OH	H	H
21		OH	H	H
22	H	OH	H	
24	H	OH	H	
26	H		H	
29		OH	H	PhS-
30		OH	H	
32	H	OH	H	-Ph
45	H	OH	H	

Cpd	R^4	R^5	R^6	R^7
49	H	OH	H	
50	H	OH		H
54	H	OH	H	
55	H		H	
58	H		H	H
59	H		H	H
61	H		H	

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;and

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7. (new) A composition for the prevention of neuronal cell loss or for the treatment of nerve cell or axonal degradation, comprising a compound, according to claim 1, but without the provisos, together with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

8. (new) A method for the prevention of neuronal cell loss or for the treatment of nerve cell or axonal degradation, the method comprising: administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the composition, according to claim 7, so as to prevent the neuronal cell loss or to treat the nerve cell or axonal degradation.

9. (new) A method for the prevention or treatment of a neurodegenerative disease of the central and/or peripheral nervous systems, the method comprising: administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of the composition, according to claim 7, so as to prevent or treat the neurodegenerative disease.

10. (new) The method, according to claim 9, in which the neurodegenerative disease is neurodegenerative diseases of the eye.

11. (new) The method, according to claim 10, in which the neurodegenerative disease of the eye is macular degeneration and glaucoma.

12. (new) The method, according to claim 9, in which the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

13. (new) A method of treating axonal degradation, the method comprising; administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the composition, according to claim 7, so as to treat the axonal degradation.

14. (new) Use of the compound, according to claim 1, without the provisos, for altering signal transduction.

15. (new) A method of inducing axonal growth, the method comprising; administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the composition, according to claim 7, so as to induce axonal growth.

16. (new) A method of treating or preventing neuropathies and neuropathic pain in a subject, the neuropathies and neuropathic pain resulting from axonal and/or neuronal cell body damage, and/or from the loss of axonal growth and repair, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the composition, according to claim 7.

17. (new) The method, according to claim 16, in which the neuropathy is peripheral neuropathy

18. (new) The method, according to claim 17, in which the neuropathy results from a toxic agent.

19. (new) The method, according to claim 18 in which the toxic agent is a neurotoxic agent selected from Table 1.

20. (new) The method, according to claim 19, in which the neurotoxic agent is a chemotherapeutic agent.

21. (new) A method of treating a neurodegenerative disease, the method comprising: coadministering to a subject in need thereof, an effective amount of the composition, according to claim 7, in combination with other compounds known to be useful to treat the neurodegenerative disease.

22. (new) The method, according to claim 21, in which the other compounds include acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, L-dopa, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) or insulin.